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Death of the Vice-President.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.

The Vice President died very suddenly at 7:30 this morning. He rested well last night; awoke at 7 A. M. and expressed himself as feeling better; sat up in bed to take his medicine lay down on his left side and expired in a few moments without a struggle. Senator Ferry is President of the Senate pro tempore. The Cabinet is in extra session. Fish will represent the Cabinet at the meeting of Senators and Judges of the Supreme Court at noon to arrange for the funeral; after which the President will issue appropriate orders.

The Supreme Court adjourned till to-morrow. No opinions to day.

The flags here and northward are all at half mast.

EXECUTIVE MANSION.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.

It is with profound sorrow that the President has to announce to the people of the United States the death of the Vice President, Henry Wilson, who died in the capital of the nation this morning. The eminent station of the deceased, his high character, his long career in the service of his State and of the Union, his devotion to the cause of freedom, and the ability which he brought to the discharge of every duty, stand conspicuous and are indelibly impressed on the hearts and affections of the American people. In testimony of respect for this distinguished citizen and faithful public servant, the various departments of the government will be closed on the day of the funeral, and the Executive Mansion and all the Executive Departments, in Washington will be draped with badges of mourning for thirty days. The Secretary of War and of the Navy will issue orders that appropriate military and naval honors be rendered to the memory of one whose virtues and services will long be borne in recollection by a grateful nation.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT.

Nearly all the courts in the country adjourned in respect to Mr. Wilson.

The Supreme Court of the United States will transact no business this week. Delegations have been appointed from various places to come to Washington to attend the funeral ceremonies. The First Brigade of the Maryland National Guard have tendered their services to the President as guard and escort. The Vice President passed a quiet day yesterday until he heard of Senator Ferry's death, about eight o'clock which depressed him very much. Before retiring to bed, he alluded to it several times. He retired at half past nine, slept sound and peaceful. At 3 this morning his rest was disturbed by pain in his chest; He was relieved by rubbing his chest with an anodyne which had been prescribed and he again slept. He awoke precisely at 7 o'clock. He said he had slept soundly and was much refreshed. He sat up in bed and took a glass of bitter water which had been prescribed. Shortly after, he arose and walked about the room. His attendant noticed a change in Mr. Wilson about a quarter past 7. He was then lying in bed; drawing short and hurried breaths, moving about unconsistently and his limbs twitching convulsively. Physicians were called, but it was noticed that his breathing grew shorter and weaker with each breath, and as an attendant moved around the bed to support his head, he gave one long gasp and expired. Four times last night, before 12 o'clock, he called for water, and drank a glassful each time. Night before last he complained of his old trouble with pain at the base of the brain, and remarked that he must have more determined treatment, but said nothing about it to the doctor. Last night,

between 6 and 8 o'clock, he said: "If the doctor were here, I would have a blister applied to the back of my neck." From 8 to 9,30 his attendants manipulated him, pinching him thoroughly. He never liked to be rubbed. There is no evidence, in fact, that Mr. Wilson suffered severely; his face wears its usual pleasant expression. A post mortem examination was made by the doctors, who came to the conclusion that he died from apoplexy. The result of the examination of the external appearances showed nothing unusual. The brains weighed forty nine ounces.

The special session of the Senate called in April last, after an exciting caucus, selected, by a majority vote of one, Thos. W. Ferry, of Michigan, as against Henry B. Anthony, of Rhode Island, the competitor for the place. There has been no change in the Senate since. All the new members participated in the caucus deliberation which brought about the nomination. There is no doubt that if the Senate at its next meeting does not reverse its selection of last April, Mr. Ferry will be the presiding officer. The Revised Statutes contains the following: "In case of the removal, death, resignation or inability of both the President and Vice President of the United States, the President of the Senate, or, if there be none, then the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for the time being shall act as President until the disability is removed or a new President elected."

The Witness of to-day comments upon the unseemly haste attending the autopsy of Vice President Wilson. It says the announcement has struck the public very unfavorably. For hours after the death his body was in the hands of the Washington Surgeons, and his brain turned into the scale to ascertain its weight, and his body cut up in the interest of science. His brother and executor were not near; for the doctors had just assured them that the patient was doing well. On whom, then, rest the shame and responsibility of this offensive act. The nation ought to be told.

The idiotic idea of involving the country in a war with Spain "in order to capture the Southern vote" is thus commented on by the Savannah News: It is not impossible that as a third term card Grant may endeavor to involve the country in a war with Spain under pretense of putting an end to the Cuban rebellion. But if he does so with the expectation of capturing the Southern vote he will find himself ruefully mistaken. The people of the South want no unnecessary war with any foreign power—certainly not with Spain for the annexation of another negro carpet bag State to the Union. In a war with Spain our Southern coast cities would be exposed to the attacks of Spanish men of war, our commerce would be interrupted, our labor diverted from the production of crops, and we would have the satisfaction of paying our share of the cost of making a negro carpet bag State out of Cuba and bringing that once rich and prosperous island to the forlorn condition of South Carolina and Louisiana. Such a programme is not calculated to captivate the Southern people, or secure the vote of the South for Grant for a third term.

The kind of men who have held responsible positions under the present Administration may be judged in general by the thirteen rectifiers, seven gangsters and storekeepers and the deputy collector at St. Louis, who have withdrawn their pleas of not guilty and acknowledged the crooked corn. They have been bad men, but as they are no longer under the baneful influence of the Administration, they may yet reform. Their confession of guilt was probably the first honest act that they have performed since they placed themselves under obligations to an axacting and unconscionable power.

State Press Association.

Pursuant to the published call of the President of the South Carolina State Press Association, the Executive Committee assembled in the parlor of the Columbia Hotel, at 10 o'clock a. m., on Wednesday, the 24th instant. The President, J. A. Hoyet, of the Anderson Intelligencer; Vice Presidents, F. W. Dawson, of the News and Courier, S. W. Maurice, of the Kingstree Star, T. Stobo Farrow, of the Spartanburg Herald, and R. R. Hemphill, of the Abbeville Medium; Treasurer, T. F. Grenoker, of the Newberry Herald; and E. B. Murray, Corresponding Secretary, were present, and the Corresponding Secretary was requested to act as Secretary pro tem.

After appropriate remarks from the President, the committee proceeded to the business before it. Applications for membership were received and acted upon favorably from Messrs. D. F. Bradley, of the Pickens Sentinel, S. S. Crittenden, of the Greenville Enterprise and Mountaineer, R. Means Davis, of the Winnsboro News, Henry Sparrick, of the Aiken Tribune, and Rev. J. I. Bonner, of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian. The Treasurer's report, showing about \$135 on hand, was received. The consideration of a press excursion to the Philadelphia and Fort Moultrie centennials was taken up and discussed at length, after which the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to ascertain and report at the regular meeting of the association in May what arrangements can be made, and at what cost for the transportation of the members of the association to Philadelphia by rail from Spartanburg in May, and from Charleston by rail or sea in July, together with the cost of quarters in Philadelphia.

Under this resolution, Messrs. Dawson, Farrow and Hoyet were appointed upon this committee. The President was authorized to appoint the hour for the next annual meeting at Spartanburg, on the 10th of May, 1876, and also to fix the time for the delivery of the annual oration by F. W. Dawson, Esq., of the News and Courier. The committee then adjourned.

STYLISH BUT SENSIBLE.—A plucky Iowa girl tells her experience in getting on in this world: I am the only daughter of a farmer of moderate means; have taught school five years. I began when sixteen years of age. This present summer I walked one and three fourth miles night and morning and taught my summer school. Harvest came on, and we were in want of a hired hand. Plowly could be had at \$2.50 per day, but that seemed like loss without profit, so I donned my driving gloves and broad brimmed hat and drove the reaper to cut eighty acres of grain besides I took a music lesson once in every week. All of my young lady friends said: "Oh, you will ruin your hands and complexion," but for aught I see they are as white as the day I closed school. Since reaping is done I've done all the cooking for the harvest folks. I carry a gold watch and chain and support amethyst jewelry and move in the best society; am considered rather stylish, but am of that disposition that I can adapt myself to circumstances. I am well aware that a delicate dress and crimped hair become me in a ballroom, that a modest dress and neat fitting gloves are designed for church, and last, but not least, that a calico dress is preferable for kitchen work.

The Beaufort Tribune says: \$20,000 is a very desirable sum and our delegation had better bear in mind that this sum has been set aside for the purpose of reinstating George Holmes in the office of County Treasurer. As long as grand juries can be bought cheap, there will be no trouble in defying investigation of official conduct. But if \$20,000 is to be distributed in Columbia this winter for one office, let Beaufort County come to the front and secure her share. She has always done so heretofore.

Broken Marriage Vows.

It is seldom, says the Goshen correspondent of the New York Herald, that this place is exercised as it is at present over a scandal in high life. The prominent figure in the affair is no less a person than Mr. R. H. Randall, President of the Erie Railroad Company before Gould and Fisk, and reported to be one of the wealthiest citizens of this place. For a long time vague rumors have been freely and industriously circulated compromising the character of the accused ex-President, but until lately nothing has been publicly known as to the real truth of the matter. It is alleged, however, that during the past few months indisputable evidence has been obtained of the impudence of the accused, and the result is that Mrs. Berdell has left her husband, taking her children with her, and commenced legal proceedings against him for alimony and divorce.

About a half score years ago Mr. Berdell, who was then a widower, became enamored and the suitor of a handsome daughter of a well known and highly esteemed citizen of New York. The result of the courtship was that a matrimonial knot was tied. Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Berdell removed to this place, where he purchased one of the finest and costliest residences in this part of the country, valued, it is said, at \$150,000. Mrs. Berdell, being a very sociable lady, of pleasing and amiable manners, not only experienced no difficulty in making acquaintances and friends in the best society here, but became a great favorite and was much admired.

Ere long it began to be rumored about that her husband was unfaithful to his marriage vows, and that his time was being occupied by another woman. For a time the rumors were floating about with every wind, but as time passed on a lull took place and comparatively nothing was heard in relation to the matter. The sympathy of the people was with the injured wife, and hopes were entertained that the reports would prove false. But no such good fortune awaited her. On the contrary, there came other rumors of the harsh treatment of the wronged wife, and with them new and more damaging reports of the infidelity of her husband. Again it was hoped that all would turn out right. But as before, truth was potent and powerful, and the scandalous reports were verified by the un concealed actions of the accused husband.

Some time ago, probably four or five months, the local papers gave the first publicity to the account of a disgraceful scene on an Erie Railway train. It seems that the ex-President is the fortunate possessor of a pass to ride free over the road. With this, it is alleged, he attempted to pass a notorious Paterson woman as his wife. Being acquainted with the character of the woman the conductor refused to do so, and afterward reported the matter to the company's headquarters. It was made the subject of serious discussion by the Directors, and the question whether or no his pass would be taken up was debated. They, however, took no action, and finally permitted the matter to drop.

From this time until a few days ago the friends of the ex-President's wife, assisted by a detective, kept track of her husband's whereabouts and doings, when they were rewarded by again by detecting him. He had visited New York, accompanied by the same woman, and driving to the St. Denis Hotel, registering as man and wife, giving Westchester county as their place of residence. Soon after they were shown to their room the detective, accompanied by Mrs. Berdell's father and brother, arrived at the hotel. The proprietor was informed of the nature of their business, and told the truth as to who the "Westchester county" couple were. The detective and his companions, after thus gaining incontrovertible evidence of the criminality of the twain, left, and were followed by

them, they having been incontinently hustled out by the proprietor.

The matter having been placed in the hands of Messrs. Fullerton, Knox & Crosby, that firm has commenced the suit for alimony and divorce above spoken of on the ground of adultery. About a week ago the necessary papers were served on the defendant, and Mrs. Berdell took her departure from her husband's residence, taking her two children with her. They have taken up their residence on the opposite side of the street, at the house of a friend. Now that this matter has come to light and will be taken into the Court, it is stated that other suits are to be pushed against the accused for alleged illegal business transactions, which involves many thousands of dollars.

The woman with whom the defendant is accused of criminal intimacy was before the Court of this county about a year ago, figuring as the plaintiff in a suit brought for defamation of character. She had been ejected out of a ball room as an improper and unfit person to associate with respectable ladies. The defendant, unexpectedly to and unfortunately for her, attempted to prove the charge preferred, and introduced witnesses who gave evidence so damaging to her character that the jury gave a verdict of no cause of action.

The History of Postage Stamps.

The introduction of the postal system, as it at present exists in all countries on the globe has been credited to England, when, in 1840, covers and envelopes were devised to carry the single rate. This plan was adopted through the exertions of Sir Rowland Hill, who has been aptly termed the "father of postage stamps." It now appears, however, that there is another aspirant for the introduction of the stamp system. In Italy, as far back as 1818, letter sheets were prepared, duly stamped in the left lower corner, while letters were delivered by specially appointed carriers on the payment of the money which the stamp represented. The early stamp represented a courier on horseback, and was of three values. It was discontinued in 1836. Whether Italy or Great Britain first introduced postage stamps, other countries afterward began to avail themselves of this method for the prepayment of letters, although they did not move very promptly in the matter.

Great Britain enjoyed the monopoly of stamps for three years, and, though the first stamp were issued in 1840, she has made fewer changes in her stamps than any other country, and suffered no change at all in the main design, the portrait of Queen Victoria. In other countries, notably in our own, the Sandwich Islands, and the Argentine Republic, the honor of portraiture on the stamps is usually distributed among various high public officers; but in Great Britain the Queen alone figures on her stamps, and not even the changes that thirty five years have made in her face are shown on the national and colonial postage stamps.

The next country to follow the example of England was Brazil. In 1843 a series of three stamps was issued, consisting simply of large numerals denoting the value, and all printed in black. Then came the cantons in Switzerland, and Finland, with envelopes which to day are very rare, and soon after them, Bavaria, Belgium, France, Hanover, New South Wales, Tuscany, Austria, British Guiana, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig, Holstein, Spain, Denmark, Italy, Oldenburg, Trinidad, Wurttemberg, and the United States. Other countries followed in the train, until, at the present moment, there is scarcely any portion of the globe, inhabited by civilized people, which has not postage stamps.—St. Nicholas for November.

The New York World deprecates any trouble with Spain now on the Cuban question, and indulges the hope that our centennial year will be one of peace.

The Old Schoolhouses.

School and architecture is far from perfect, as many an unlucky boy and girl know from experience, having taken severe colds from windows opened to secure ventilation. But the schoolrooms of to day are a paradise compared with those of the last century. A veteran gives his recollections of boyhood at school:

The first winter I attended I remember that the walls were almost black with smoke and dirt. The top of the room was thickly covered with balls of paper which had been chewed up and thrown against it. There was a large, open fireplace. The wood used was green, drawn to the door sled length, and sometimes in whole trees, to be cut up by the large boys. The room was very cold in the morning, and scholars were allowed to leave their seats and form a semicircle around the fire. The struggle for desirable positions often called down on the offenders severe discipline with a large stick, which was applied with more vigor than nowadays. Large quantities of wood were burned during the forenoon, and during the afternoon the large accumulation of burning coals would throw out intense heat.

Being honored with a front seat, with no desk before me, I have a vivid recollection of the torture I endured while compelled to face this fiery furnace, while in the morning I had suffered almost as much from the cold, being too small and weak to get a glance at the fire through the dense crowd that encircled it. After reading my little lesson which occupied but a few minutes, and taking a glance at the six pictures in Webster's spelling book, I had nothing to do but turn and twist and take a general survey of things. I had one amusement which was very precious to me. It consisted in rolling wet paper into a ball and tossing it up the very steep aisle, and watching it roll down again. This was not one of the requirements of the school, and I was often suddenly arrested while zealously engaged in it by a warm and painful sensation about my ears and the roots of my hair.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 24.—A movement is on foot to assemble a large number of soldiers of both armies in the late war, at the same time, during the Centennial. It is proposed to have the Northern and Southern armies represented by their leading Generals, and thousands of the rank and file from every State. The purpose of this is to show to the world by a grand, impressive demonstration, that men who were in arms against each other a few years ago are now united in celebrating the one hundredth birthday of their country, and inspired by a spirit of patriotism. The feelings is one of common nationality.

SPAIN.—Don Carlos wants to spring a fight between Spain and the United States, in order that he may be allowed to join Alfonso, for the honor of Spain, and that his claims to the throne may be held in abeyance. The Don is in the last extremity.

When we hear that Grant favors a war with Spain, we may conclude that Grant is also in the last extremity.

PRINCETON, Nov. 24.—Forty students have expelled for belonging to a secret society against the order of the faculty. Two thirds of the expelled belonged to the senior class.

The annual meeting of the South Carolina Conference, M. E. Church of South will begin in Orangeburg on Wednesday 15th of December, Bishop Keener, of New Orleans, will preside over the conference, and more than two hundred delegates are expected to be present.

James Gordon Bennett, of the New York Herald is said to be engaged to a handsome daughter of a wealthy Cuban.